THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Monthwise LPG demand/supply statement for West Bengal for 1986, 1987 and 1988 (upto June, 1988) is enclosed (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 36)

(c) A backlog in supply of LPG refills had developed temporarily in several parts of the country, including West Bengal, recently on account of shortfall in the bulk availability of LPG apart from movement, industrial relations and other operational constraints;

(d) and (e) While there is no proposal to set up any new bottling plant in West Bengal, the capacity of the Paharpur bottling plant is being augmented;

(f) The bottling capacity available in West Bengal adequately meets the requireof the State.

Clearance of the Haldia Petrochemical complex

701. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 116 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April 1988 and state:

(a) what is the latest position of the Haldia petrochemical project promoted by the West Bengal Government and the RPG enterprises; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in giving clearance to the project by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) As far as the Ministry of Industry is concerned, necessary approvals for the project including extension in the validity of letter of intent and in the foreign collaboration approvals have been given from time to time.

Irregularities in DESU accounts pointed out by the Auditors

702. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether gross operational irregularities in the DESU accounts pertaining to the period September, 1985 to January, 1986 were recently detected by the Auditors with the possibility of embezzlement/misappropriation of Undertaking's money;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the estimated loss suffered by DESU as a consequence thereof; and

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the irregularities detected in the accounts of DESU; if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) According to DESU, the Municipal Chief Auditor has, *inter-alia*, observed on the Monthly Accounts of DESU for the period under reference that bank accounts for the months of September 1985 to January 1986 have not been reconciled so far and the accounts cannot be taken as complete. In the absence of the reconcilation, the position of debit and credit outstanding, collection outstanding and cheques outstanding could not be verified in Audit. According to the Chief Auditor, in these circumstances, the posibility of any embezzlement/misappropriation of the Undertaking's money could not be ruled out.

(b) and (c) The reconcilation of accounts is in progress and it would be possible to take necessary action after the details of the loss suffered by DESU, if any, have been ascertained on completion of the reconcilation work.